

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A server assignment device,
comprising:

a user record storage unit for storing user records of
service ~~in~~ sent from a plurality of service servers for each
of service users, said user records being updated based on
transmittal of service from said service servers to the
service users; and

a connecting unit for ~~connecting~~ selecting one of a
plurality of service servers ~~selected~~ in accordance with said
user records of ~~the~~ a service users upon reception of a
connection request from the service users and sending the
address of the selected one of said service servers to the
service user requesting connection.

2. (Currently Amended) A server assignment device
according to claim 1, wherein :

said connecting unit connects said service users to one
of a plurality ~~of~~ of service servers of different service
contents or performance in correspondence with a grade
determined based on said user records.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) A server assignment device according to claim 1, wherein :

said connecting unit transmits the address commonly Shared by a plurality of said service servers to said service users, and translates said commonly shared address in a connection request from said service users to connect to the address of one of said plurality of service servers in correspondence with said user records of the service users.

5. (Currently Amended) A server assignment device according to claim 4, wherein :

said connecting unit provides with an address ~~resolver~~translation server having said commonly shared address for translating the address of a connection request to the server to one of said plurality of service servers.

6. (Currently Amended) A server assignment device, comprising:

a user record storage unit for storing user records of services ~~in~~sent from a plurality of service servers for each of service users, said user records being updated based on transmittal of service from said service servers; and

a server address discriminator unit for allocating the address of one of a plurality of service servers selected in accordance with said user records of ~~the~~ a service users, upon reception of a connection request from said service users, ~~to~~ as the address of a service servers to be connected.

7. (Currently Amended) A server assignment device according to claim 6, wherein:

said allocated address is transmitted to said service users requesting connection.

8. (Currently Amended) A server assignment device according to claim 6, further comprising:

an address storage unit for storing the correspondence between the address of said service users and the address of said allocated service Servers;

a transmitter unit for transmitting the commonly shared address of said plurality of service servers to said service users;

an address translation unit for ~~resolving~~ translating said allocated address in accordance with said address storage unit upon reception of a connection request from said service

users to said commonly Shared address in order to route said connection request to said service server having said address.

9. (Original) A server assignment device according to claim8, further comprising:

an address resolver server including said address storage unit and said address translation unit.

10. (Currently Amended) A server assignment device according to claim 6, wherein :

said server address discriminator unit allocates one of asaid plurality of service servers of different service contents or performance in correspondence with the grade of said service users determined by said user records for the service server to be connected.

11. (Currently Amended) A server assignment device according to claim 6, wherein:

said server address discriminator unit allocates one of asaid plurality of service servers of different number of limit of connected service users for the service server to be connected, in accordance with the grade of said service users determined by said user records.

12. (Original) A server assignment device according to claim 10, further comprising:

an incentive generating unit for generating incentive information for offering incentive information to invite users to have more services provided, wherein:

said server assignment device transmits said incentive information generated by said incentive information generating unit to said service users.

13. (Original) A server assignment device according to claim 11, further comprising:

an incentive generating unit for generating incentive information for offering incentive information to invite users to have more services provided, wherein:

said server assignment device transmits said incentive information generated by said incentive information generator unit to said service users.

14. (Currently Amended) A server assignment device according to claim 12, wherein:

said incentive information is variable depending on the grade of said service users, and includes information about

special offers for ~~a~~specific grades or specific status of current user records of the service users.

15. (Currently Amended) A server assignment device according to claim 13, wherein:

said incentive information is variable depending on the grade of said service users, and includes information about special offers for ~~a~~specific grades or specific status of current user records of the service users.

16. (Currently Amended) A server assignment device, comprising:

a membership grade configuration unit having grades of service users predetermined, indicative of the permission of connecting to one of a plurality of service servers of different service contents; and

a server address discriminator unit for allocating one of ~~a~~said plurality of service servers selected in accordance with said grades of the service users upon reception of a connection request from said service users for the address of a service server to be connected, wherein said grades of the service users are updated based on connection of said one of the service servers to the service users.

17. (Currently Amended) A service providing system,
comprising:

a plurality of service servers of different service
contents or performance;

a representative server including:

a user record storage unit for storing user records of
services in said service servers for each of service users,
a server address discriminator unit for allocating the
address of one of said plurality of service servers selected
in accordance with said user records of the service users,
upon reception of a connection request from said service
users, for the address of a service server to be connected,
and

an incentive generating unit for generating incentive
information for offering incentive information to invite users
to have more services Provided;

wherein:

said representative server transmits the address of thus
allocated address of the service server and said incentive
information to said service users;

said selected service server upon reception of a service

request from said service users provides services to the
requesting service users; and
said user records are updated.

18. (Currently Amended) A service providing system,
comprising:

a plurality of service servers of different service
contents or performance;

a representative server including:

a user record storage unit for storing user records of
services ~~in~~ sent from said service servers for each of service
users, said user records being updated based on transmittal of
services,

a server address discriminator unit for allocating the
address of one of said plurality of service servers selected
in accordance with said user records of the service users,
upon reception of a connection request from said service
users, for the address of a service server to be connected,
and

an incentive generating unit for generating incentive
information for offering incentive information to invite users
to have more services provided;

said representative server transmits a commonly shared

address of said service servers and said incentive information to said service users;

said representative server further comprising:

an address storage unit for storing the correspondence between the address of said service users and the address of said allocated service servers; and

an address translation unit for resolving said allocated address in accordance with said address storage unit upon reception of a connection request from said service users to said commonly shared address in order to route said connection request to said service server having said translated address;

wherein:

said selected service server upon reception of a service request from said service users provides services.

19. (Original) A service providing system according to claim 18, further comprising:

an address resolver server interposed between said service users and service servers for storing said address storage unit and said address translating unit.

20. (Currently Amended) A service providing method, for use in a service providing system including a plurality Of

service servers of different service contents or performance and a representative server, comprising the steps of:

a first step of allocating an address of one of said service servers in ~~correspondence~~ accordance with the user record of ~~said a service servers~~ user, upon reception of a connection request from said service ~~servers~~ user to said representative server;

a second step of transmitting information for offering incentive to invite users to have more services provided; and

a third step of connecting said service users to said allocated service server, wherein:

the user record of the service user is updated.

21. (Original) A service providing method according to claim 20, wherein:

said third step of transmitting further includes a step of:

transmitting the address allocated in said first step of allocating to said service users.

22. (Original) A service providing method according to claim 20, wherein:

said third step of transmitting further includes the steps of:

transmitting an address commonly shared by said service servers to said service users; and

translating addresses from a service request with respect to said commonly shared address to a service request with respect to said allocated service server.